



Tops in talent



Members of the Air Force Tops in Blue performed their show “Musicology” for the Randolph community Wednesday night in Hangar 4. Over 800 people attended the event. The 90 minute show featured renditions from artist such as Ray Charles, Madonna, Martin McBride and more. (Photo by Steve White)

AFAF ‘Commitment to Caring’ helps NCO

“I became frantic. I didn’t even know there was anything wrong with my mom to begin with. It was all such a surprise.”

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Being stationed in Guam, far away from your home in Texas, is hard. But when you find out your mom has cancer and is told she only has three months to live, it makes it even harder.

This was the case for Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Chant of the Randolph Command Center, who found out her mom had stage four ovarian cancer in October 2003.

“I became frantic,” said Sergeant Chant. “I didn’t even know there was anything wrong with my mom to begin with. It was all such a surprise.”

Sergeant Chant said she didn’t have any family members close by and her husband was deployed at the time.

“The fact that my mom was in Houston and my husband was in Afghanistan made the situation harder for me,” said the sergeant.

“That is where the Air Force Aid Society came in.”

Sergeant Chant immediately called her supervisor when she heard the news. Within 24 hours, her squadron collected enough money to purchase an airline ticket for her to fly to Houston. But when she arrived, she still needed more money for a rental car and other expenses.

“Having been stationed in Guam, I did not have an apartment or car in the United States. I had to get both as fast as possible,” she said. “The funds provided by the AFAS helped me do just that.”

When Sergeant Chant arrived at the hospital in Houston,

her mother could not believe her eyes.

“I didn’t want to bother Jacqueline,” said her mother Katherine Warren, “but when I saw her walk through my hospital room door, I couldn’t believe it. I had no idea the military was capable of bringing her to me so quickly.”

Sergeant Chant said her mom didn’t have a lot of money, so it was up to her to make sure she received proper medical attention.

“The hospital in Houston released her because she only had a 5 percent chance to live and could not pay for the treatment. By the time I arrived, she only weighed 100 pounds,” said the sergeant. “She was only 53 years old, but she looked a lot older since she was so sick and weak.”

Several days later, Sergeant Chant drove three hours in a rain

storm to get her mom to Wilford Hall Medical Center.

“Jacqueline was so good to me,” said her mom. “She bought me new clothes and a big pillow so I could rest in the back seat of the car.”

After arriving at Wilford Hall, doctors transported Ms. Warren by ambulance to Brooke Army Medical Center for treatment.

The sergeant was able to claim her mom as a dependent and get her an ID card, making her eligible to remain at BAMC for treatment.

“My mom stayed at BAMC for one month, received great

treatment and is doing fine. She is now in remission,” said the sergeant. “It was a miracle of God all this came together. Without the funds from the AFAS, I don’t know if I would have been able to get her the help she needed.”

For eight months Ms. Warren received 10 rounds of chemotherapy and underwent one surgery to remove the remaining tumor. It took a year for her to get to the remission stage.

“The military basically saved my mom’s life in their own way,” said Sergeant Chant. “She was not receiving the care she needed in Houston, but BAMC gave her the treatment she needed to make a full recovery.”

Without the quick help of the AFAS and her Air Force family, Sergeant Chant’s mom might not be here today. Little things like a rental car or an ID card can make a big difference, said the sergeant.

Sergeant Chant said she didn’t return to Guam.

“I was able to come to Randolph and be with my mom,” she said. “My husband came two weeks later. The people here are wonderful and were very helpful during this difficult time in my life.”

Sergeant Chant said she knows the importance of donating to the AFAF campaign. Without the help of the AFAS, one of the four charities supported by the AFAF, the situation might have turned out differently for her and her mother.

“I don’t think I could have gotten through this on my own,” said Sergeant Chant. “With the combined help of the AFAF, my squadron and my first sergeant, I was able to be with my mom just one day after I heard the news of her illness.”

Sergeant Chant said she encourages everyone to donate to the AFAF campaign.

“You never know when you will need help,” said the sergeant. “You don’t know what tomorrow holds. Your life could be turned upside down within minutes.”

The Randolph AFAF “Commitment to Caring” campaign runs through April 8 and people can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction.

For more information, call Maj. Rick Fofi at 652-4931.



Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Chant and her mom, Katherine, prepare dinner together at their home. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)



12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE

As of Monday			Navigator, EWO training				Wing Flying Hour Program			
Pilot Instructor Training										
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall	562nd FTS	563rd FTS			Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
99th FTS	-1.5	0.9	Air Force	298	Undergraduate	47	T-1A	4787.5	4678.0	12,184
558th FTS	-3.9	-0.2	Navy	80	International	0	T-6A	6624.0	6671.3	17,290
559th FTS	-8.0	-3.5	International	0	EWC Course	0	T-37B	3573.4	3488.6	8,284
560th FTS	-0.6	-0.7	NIFT	28	Fundamentals	0	T-38C	3707.4	3797.2	9,729
							T-43	1668.9	1658.8	4,293

Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.

Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of navigator students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.

The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2004 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2005.

AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

As of Monday, 126 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe



**Dedicated
June 20, 1930,
Randolph
celebrates its
75th Anniversary
in 2005**

Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

**The Randolph
WINGSPREAD**

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Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency contact numbers

12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

Value of PT:

Recent mishaps linked to lack of physical fitness

By Lt. Col. Mark Morris
12th Flying Training Wing
Safety Officer

We've all heard it a thousand times, safety is paramount and it starts with leadership.

I am here to tell you that safety is paramount, but if it starts with leadership, then we are all leaders. Safety starts with you.

The first priority in staying safe is taking care of yourself. Most people don't realize health and safety go hand in hand. A sound mind and body allows you to concentrate and react safely to protect yourself against injuries and illness and enables you to make good decisions. It takes a special commitment to get in shape and balance your life, but the rewards are well worth the effort.

Physical fitness is a way of life and must be part of your

schedule. We have all been there. You need to get a project done by the end of the day, so you just blow off your physical training time. What are the usual results? It takes twice as long to complete the project because you begin to feel sluggish.

We need physical activity each day to keep our stamina and efficiency at peak levels. Take the time to get in a short workout and then come back to the project refreshed and ready to go.

The vast majority of mishaps the safety office investigates can be linked to a lack of physical fitness. Over 70 percent of our ground related incidents are strains, sprains, backaches, slips and falls. A daily exercise routine improves muscle tone, aids circulation, strengthens the cardiopulmonary system, significantly

improves mental alertness and helps burn off stress. All of these benefits combined will improve your job performance by helping you be more alert and reducing the chances of illness and injury on and off duty.

The benefits of being physically fit do not stop at work. Your energy level at the end of the day will be higher, and the time you spend with family and friends will be of a much better quality. You will feel and look better, but the greatest benefit will be to your mental health and your confidence will drastically improve.

"Fernando," one of Billy Crystals characters on Saturday Night Live, used to say "It's better to look good than to feel good." It is a fact, that when you look good you tend to feel good. With the added

confidence, if you look better, you'll feel better. Fernando may have had it reversed but his bottom line was sound advice.

After this great advice and the promise of looking and feeling better from being physically fit, there are some things to do prior to beginning.

First, before you run out and start any physical program, you should consult a physician or the base health and wellness center to find out the best programs for you.

Second, start slowly and then build up to where you would like to be. Last, but certainly not least, enjoy your PT time.

Bottom line is You are Team Randolph's most valuable asset. Take care of yourself, your family and your people. If you follow this philosophy you may get to hear "Fernando's" second most famous quote, "You look mahhhvellous!!"

It's all about moment to moment choices

Integrity, honor should be motivation for all behavior

By Master Sgt. Virginia Schreitmueller
Mathies Airman Leadership School

ROYAL AIR FORCE FELTWELL, England – I have an idea for a combat program that could be adopted across the full Air Force spectrum. I call it, "Combat CHOICE," because everything you or I do is about choices.

We choose to do the right things or the wrong things. We choose how to spend our time, what our attitude will be, and what level of effort we put forth on and off duty.

Of course, CHOICE is not only a verb, it is an acronym: community, home, operations, integrity, commitment and excellence.

I choose to be part of my community. I

watch my neighbor's infant while my neighbor goes to work, or I volunteer to round up the neighborhood children for an outing to the movies.

I do it because I live in a community, not a military housing area.

The local village is not just a place I drive through en route to work. It is where I buy fresh bread and vegetables, a place where I "hang out" at the pub with friends, and a place where I know the first name of the chap working at the railroad station crossing.

I choose to call wherever the Air Force sends me, "home."

I choose to be part of the operations. I get tasked, and I get asked. I get told, and I volunteer.

The mission doesn't happen based on my likes and dislikes. It happens because I choose to ensure whatever needs to be done gets done, and I do it without whining or making excuses.

I choose to make integrity the motivation behind all I do. I understand deception is

just a lie with more syllables. When I say or do something, it reflects on me, my family, my job and my Air Force. I won't compromise any of those things – ever.

I choose to make a commitment to all those aspects in my community, my home, my mission.

I realize, even when I am tired, my responsibilities aren't put on hold. I do my best to balance my family, friends and work.

I choose to strive for excellence, on and off duty.

It really is all about choosing to do the right things all the time. It is about taking ownership of where I live, how I live, my actions and reactions, every time, everywhere, in all I do.

Everything in life comes with choices.

No one should have to tell you not to drink and drive, to get a haircut, to pick up a piece of trash in the parking lot, to help a neighbor, to get involved, to put in "overtime" to get the job done, or simply to do the right thing.

My parents raised me better.

My Air Force expects it to come naturally.

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Senior Master Sgt. Keith Click
Air Education and Training Command

Today
Master Sgt. Vonda Monroe
AETC

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

Annual honorees

The military and civilian nominees for the Team Randolph 2004 annual awards stand in front the Taj Thursday morning with Col. John Hesterman, 12th Flying Training Wing commander (left on front row), and Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sergeant, 12th FTW command chief master sergeant (right on front row), following a medallion ceremony announcing the nominees in the base theater. The annual awards banquet took place Thursday night in the enlisted club. The Wingspread will announce the winners in the March 11 issue.
(Photo by Melissa Peterson)



Base celebrates Women’s History Month

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Multicultural Women’s History Movement and the 85th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote. Randolph is celebrating these milestones in history by hosting several events throughout the month.

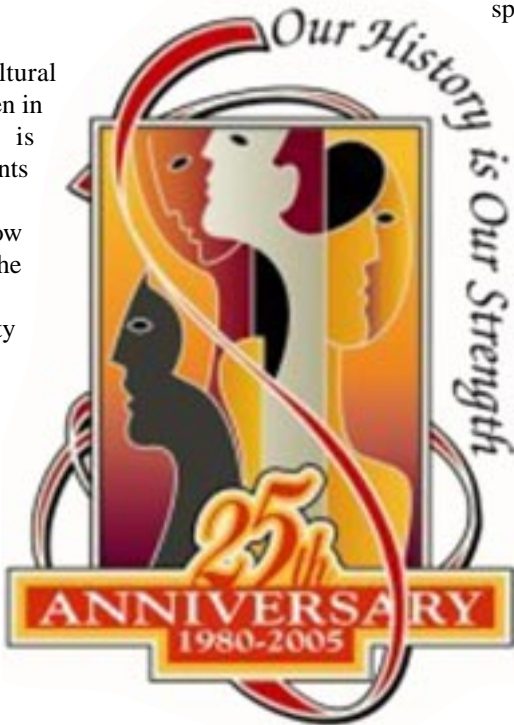
The celebrations kick off with a luncheon and fashion show Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the enlisted club. The luncheon costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

The guest speaker is Jelynn Burley, San Antonio assistant city manager.

With 19 years of experience with the city, Ms. Burley is responsible for directing San Antonio’s initiatives in neighborhood investment and inner city revitalization through oversight of the Neighborhood Action, Housing and Community Development, Code Compliance and Planning Departments.

“The luncheon is a great way for the base to come together and celebrate women’s history,” said Dana Woods, women’s history month chairperson. “The guest speaker will have some great stories and information to share with the audience.”

A self-development seminar is scheduled for March 14 at 10 a.m. at the enlisted club. The guest speakers include St. Phillip’s College professor Olga Samples Davis and San Antonio police officer Wyman Herring.



Ms. Davis is a playwright, poet, performing artist and inspirational speaker. She plans to discuss the topic of wisdom.

Officer Herring, a 27-year veteran with the San Antonio Police Department, is a crime prevention officer assigned to the East Area San Antonio Fear Free Environment Unit. He is providing information about women’s safety.

A health forum takes place March 18 at 10 a.m. in the officers’ club international ballroom.

The health and wellness center is providing information on stress management for men and women, low calorie and low fat cooking, vitamins, massage therapy, weight lifting techniques for men and women, self-breast exam information and much more, said Ms. Woods.

For more information on the health forum, call Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Woodruff at 652-1996.

A talent show is the highlight of the month. Randolph members have the chance to showcase their talents March 25 at 7 p.m. at the enlisted club. Interested participants, those wanting tickets or those needing more information about the events can contact Ms. Woods at 652-4403, ext. 2.

“The women’s history month talent show should be a big hit, giving base members the chance to show off their variety of talents,” said Ms. Woods.

The month ends with another professional and self-development seminar March 30 at 8 a.m. at the officers’ club. The guest speakers include Brenda McCain, the base’s civilian personnel officer, and Velma Elizardo, the base’s affirmative employment element chief.

Women’s History Month Events

- **Wednesday** - Luncheon and fashion show, Guest speaker: Jelynn Burley, San Antonio assistant city manager 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., enlisted club
- **March 14** - Self-development seminar Guest speakers: Olga Samples Davis, St. Phillip’s College professor; Wyman Herring, San Antonio police officer 10 a.m., enlisted club
- **March 18** - Health forum, 10 a.m., officers’ club
- **March 25** - Talent show, 7 p.m., officers’ club
- **March 30** - Professional and Self-development seminar, Guest speakers: Brenda McCain, Randolph civilian personnel officer; Velma Elizondo, Randolph affirmative employment element chief

Wingspread writer named best in AETC

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A writer on the Wingspread staff was named best in Air Education and Training Command and the Wingspread itself took second place when the annual public affairs media contest and achievement awards were announced Feb. 24.

Bob Hieronymus is the command’s best contract writer for 2004 and will now represent AETC in the Air Force public affairs awards competition this month.

In addition to his first place award, he also took third in the contract photographer category.

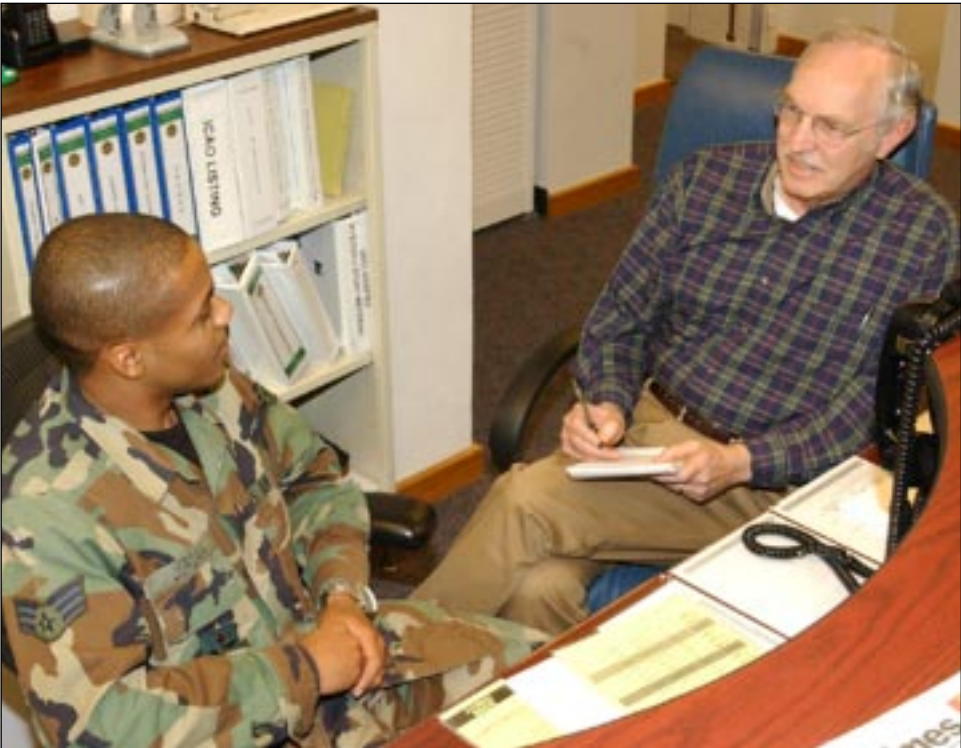
Master Sgt. Lee Roberts of the 12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs office took a second-place award in the feature-writing category.

An employee of Prime Time Newspapers Inc., the San Antonio-based contract publisher of the Wingspread, Mr. Hieronymus has been a member of the staff here since February 2003. His beat covers operations, history and special events.

His award-winning article was entitled, “Former POW shares unusual story of hardship.” Published in honor of national Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day in September, the feature article told the story of a San Antonio woman who became a POW during World War II while a high school student living with her family in the Philippines.

Mr. Hieronymus, a retired major, is one of three staff members – two writers and a layout and design person – provided under contract by Prime Time for Wingspread production.

“Bob’s military and life experiences give him a great depth of understanding about our current operations and Air Force history that comes through in his writing,” said Capt. Paul Villagran, chief of public affairs. “This award is just the command certifying what we already know. Bob is a skilled writer and a valuable member of our team.”



Bob Hieronymus interviews Senior Airman Jeff Jordan in the Randolph Command Center Feb. 25 for a Wingspread story about the center's operations. (Photo by Michael Briggs)



Ensign Christopher Bennett
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Ronald Blankenship
AC-130H
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2nd Lt. Nicholas Byrd
RC-135 (EWO)
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Clint Carlisle
C-130
Ramstein AB, Germany



2nd Lt. Lewis Clark
C-130
Dyess AFB, Texas



Ensign Adam Dye
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. John Garvin
C-130
Pope AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Patrick Godinez
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



Ensign Jason Harris
E-6
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. James Jarskey
E-8 JSTARS
Robbins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Robert Johnson
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. Michael Kirchner
HC-130
Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Evan Kirkwood
C-130
192 AS Nevada ANG



2nd Lt. Ulysess Linares
B-52
Barksdale AFB, La.



Ensign Brendan Maguire
EP-3
NAS Rota, Spain



Ensign Jason Mazieka
E-6
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Michael Morrison
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Ronald Palmer
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



Ensign Joe Prowell
E-6
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Robert Rogers
MC-130E
Eglin AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Preston Rollins
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. William Schaeffer
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.



Ensign William Schmermund
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Eric Schnaar
EC-130 (EWO)
Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Andrew Short
C-130
Standiford Field, Ky.



2nd Lt. Shawna Soper
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



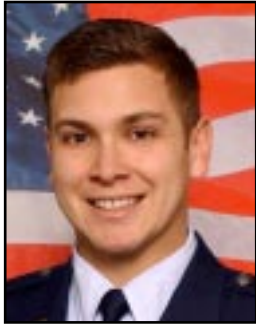
Ensign James Stauffer
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Jamie Torres
C-130
Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Carlos Tranisi
RC-135 (EWO)
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Scott Zaverl
B-52
Barksdale AFB, La.

NEWS BRIEFS

Weekend air traffic

Randolph will experience unusual air activity Saturday and Sunday as T-6 Texan and T-6A Texan II aircraft practice for heritage aerial displays.

Common access card renewal

The Department of Defense common access cards, formerly called ID cards and issued in 2002, will soon expire. Normally the CAC must be renewed within 30 days of its expiration date, but DoD has granted an extension of the renewal window to 60 days.

To renew a CAC, members must schedule an appointment with the base military personnel flight via e-mail at 12mss.customer-service@randolph.af.mil.

When renewing family member cards, the servicemember must be present to sign the application forms.

Patient Safety Awareness Week

The 12th Medical Group is hosting activities to promote National Patient Safety Awareness Week Sunday through March 12. Activities are centered on teaching patients to become involved in their health care and working with hospitals to build partnerships with their patient community.

Flyers are offered describing steps patients can take to be more responsible for their health care.

A computer is available in the pharmacy waiting area for patients to access and print medication information. Medication logs are offered for recording medications and other personal information. Pharmacy newsletters are also available.

Tuskegee Airmen open house

The 99th Flying Training Squadron and the San Antonio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., host an open house Monday from 9 a.m. to noon in Hangar 12.

The event commemorates the 63rd anniversary of the first graduating class of Tuskegee Airmen from Tuskegee Army Airfield.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Horace Carter at 652-5434, ext. 3036.

Post-deployment stand-down policy

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command recently reiterated its post-deployment stand-down policy to provide AETC members an opportunity to recover and reconstitute after lengthy deployments.

Members deployed six weeks or more are to be given seven days stand-down time, and members deployed for 12 weeks or more are given 14 days. When mission essential people can not take the time immediately after deployment, commanders are to ensure they receive the stand-down time within 90 days of their return to home station.

Members who supported the fight at home stations may also receive stand-down time as determined by local commanders.

Main gate marquee out of service

Due to construction at the main gate, the view of the electronic marquee is blocked. Therefore, public affairs will not post any marquee announcements until the marquee is once again in view. Phase II of the project is scheduled to last until fall 2005.

People can post announcements in the Wingspread by e-mailing them to wingspread@randolph.af.mil. Messages can also be placed on the Commander's Access Channel, channel 21 on base televisions, by calling the wing public affairs office.

For more details on placing an announcement, call public affairs at 652-2305.

JSUNT graduation set for today

Twenty-two Air Force and eight Navy aviators receive their navigator and naval flight officer wings during a Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training graduation ceremony here today.

The ceremony is at 10 a.m. in the Randolph Officers' Club. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Dennis Larsen, 13th Air Force commander, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

As commander of the 13th AF, the general plans and directs air operations in the Southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean areas. He

oversees six installations and the deployable 613th Contingency Response Group.

General Larsen has been selected for promotion to lieutenant general and is the incoming vice commander for Headquarters Air Education and Training Command.

Col. George Duda, 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander, is presenting the students with their respective service's silver wings or gold wings, as well as presenting four special awards during the ceremony for student achievement.

Randolph Field drawn from South Texas dust



Local farmers receive top dollar for family homesteads

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

(This article is the third in a series celebrating the 75th anniversary of Randolph Air Force Base.)

Randolph Air Base was not created in a day, or even a year. It was a product of the times and much hard work on the part of many people.

The decade of the ‘20s began with a post-war economic slump but America soon rebounded as war industries returned to civilian production. Political leaders boasted that imperial Germany was defeated, its empire parceled out to the victors and the world was “safe for democracy.” The public enthusiastically followed developments in aeronautics and thrilled to demonstrations by barnstormers flying war surplus training airplanes.

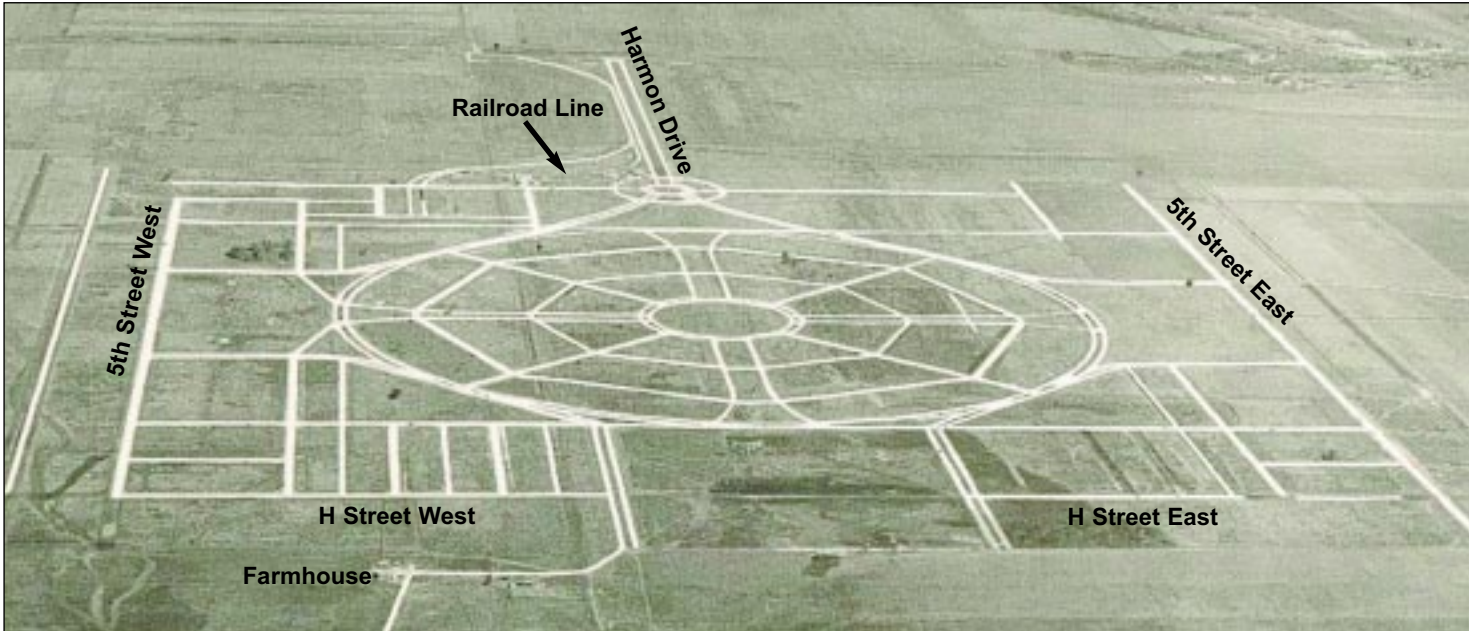
On July 2, 1926, Congress passed the Army Air Corps Act, establishing the Air Corps on an equal basis with the infantry, cavalry and artillery corps. The new Air Corps leadership quickly decided the existing situation of having two training commands, one at Brooks Field for basic flight training and another at Kelly Field for advanced training, was not the best arrangement. Brig. Gen. Frank Lahm, who was one of the Army’s first pilots, was designated to unify and improve the pilot training process.

General Lahm arrived on Duncan Field, an auxiliary of Kelly Field just outside San Antonio, Texas, on Sept. 1, 1926. He concluded the infrastructure of the San Antonio bases was inadequate for long-term use. Buildings on the bases were hastily built during the war and designed to last only five years. He recommended a new base be designed from the ground up for flight training and be built to the best standards of the day.

By the following April, General Lahm received assurances from San Antonio city officials land would be made available for a new “West Point of the Air” somewhere near the city. Several cities in other states offered generous contributions of land for what they knew would be a lucrative addition to their economies, but the general was convinced the weather in South Texas was best for year-round flight training.

Congress specified any new site in the San Antonio area must be selected by the end of 1927 because possible sites that already belonged to the federal government were available in Florida and California. In any case, Congress was not about to spend money to purchase land. This left the success of the project up to the city of San Antonio and its chamber of commerce officials to come up with a plan.

While the city officials were working out the financial arrangements, General Lahm sorted through proposals for 20 possible



This photo, dated Oct. 1, 1929, shows how the roads of the base developed. The underground utilities were already in place when most of the roads were built, which illustrates the high degree of planning that went into the project. No permanent buildings were being built. The farmhouse stands about where the present dining hall is located.

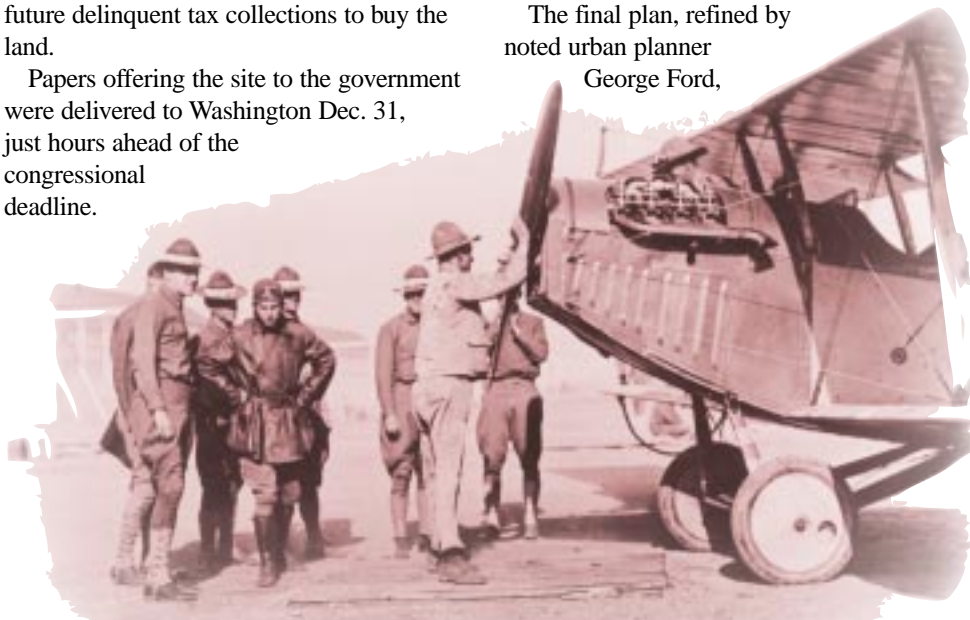
sites around the city. He finally settled on a 2,350-acre site near Schertz, some 18 miles northeast of the city center. It was all farmland owned by two dozen families. Chamber of commerce officials convinced the farmers to sell and city lawyers found a legal loophole allowing them to issue \$500,000 in municipal bonds backed by future delinquent tax collections to buy the land.

Papers offering the site to the government were delivered to Washington Dec. 31, just hours ahead of the congressional deadline.

detailed to work on the plan.

Lieutenant Clark was ideally suited for the project. He had university training in architecture and was an Army pilot, so he could think in both disciplines, but creating a planned city on vacant farmland was a daunting assignment. He was assigned duty as supervising architect for the project.

The final plan, refined by noted urban planner George Ford,



While Randolph Field was being built, Army Air Corps flight training continued at Kelly and Brooks Fields. These cadets, identified by the white bands on their campaign hats, are instructed on how to spin the propeller to start the Liberty engine on the JN-4 “Jenny” training biplane.

Closing the sales and filing the papers took another six months, but General Lahm and his staff plunged into the planning process.

At one of the meetings of the base planning committee in 1927, a young lieutenant stationed at Kelly Field offered a sketch of his idea for an “air city.” First Lt. Harold Clark’s concept drew on ideas then circulating among professional city planners, but he brought them together in a unique way to answer the Army’s flight training requirements. He was immediately relieved of duty as a motor pool dispatch officer and

was based on the idea of locating the base housing area in the center of the “city” with air operations around the perimeter where open grass fields would allow takeoffs and landings into winds from any direction. Maintenance buildings were positioned as a bridge between the housing and flying areas of the base.

Work on the land began on Oct. 11, 1928, when tractors began to clear about 180 acres in stands of native trees. One very large live oak tree was saved in the area of what would later become the golf course. This tree died

in 2002 at an estimated age of 125 years.

By the end of the October clearing had been completed and the first wells were being dug. Of the nine wells drilled, only three proved to be productive, but they were reported to bring in 1,725 gallons per minute.

Flight safety was a paramount concern, so there were to be no telephone or power lines on poles. The concept of underground utilities serving so large a community was innovative at the time. Most underground conduits and water and sewer pipes were installed before road surfaces were laid down, which necessitated very detailed planning about the design and use of buildings that would follow later.

To further limit obstructions to flight, only the base headquarters building would be built more than three stories high. The only reason it would be tall was to include a 500,000-gallon water tank where height was necessary to generate pressure by gravity in the base water distribution system. Today, we know this building as the Taj Mahal, Building 100.

Several railroad spurs were included in the plan to bring construction materials to the site and deliver supplies once the base was operational. Even the rail tracks were laid level with the flying fields to reduce obstructions to taxiing airplanes.

Construction of the roads and underground infrastructure was nearing completion when the first building construction contracts were let in October 1929. The entire project was estimated then to cost about \$11 million, the largest government project since construction of the Panama Canal. The amazing thing is, even though the big stock market crash of 1929 hit in October that year, Congress kept the project alive to completion.

